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Hepton Rural District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1945.

Hebden Bridge:

Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.

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HEPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Holme House, Hebden Bridge.
August, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton Rural District Council

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Hetpon Rural District for the year 1945.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46 dated 11th February, 1946, and Circular 49/45 of 19th March, 1945, the report has been curtailed, and is an interim report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

		Total	M	F	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	50	38	12	Birth-rate per 1000 estimated Resident Civilian Population 14.70
	Illegitimate...	3	2	1	
Still Births	Legitimate ..	1	1	0	Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total births 18.51
	Illegitimate...	0	0	0	

Estimated Resident Civilian Population 1945, 3,605.

	Total	M	F	
Deaths	55	24	31	Death-rate per 1000 estimated resident Civilian Population, 15.25

Live Birth Rate (England and Wales) 16.1 per 1000 Civilian Population.

Still Birth Rate (England and Wales) 0.46 per 1000 Civilian Population.

Death Rate (England and Wales) 11.4 per 1000 Civilian Population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Births	Total (Live & still) Births Rate per 1000
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	..... 0.00
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	..... 0.00

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate	Total 3	Males 0	Females 3
Illegitimate	Total 0	Males 0	Females 0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births:—

Legitimate 60 Illegitimate 0.00. All Infants 56.60.

Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—

England and Wales 46

Deaths from	Diphtheria	0
,,	Measles (all ages)	0
,,	Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,,	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
..	Cancer (all ages)	12
..	Heart Diseases (all ages)	20
.	Influenza	0
	Suicide	0
..	Road Traffic Accidents	0
..	Pneumonia (all types)	1
.	Scarlet Fever	0

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time Officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

This is principally carried out by the two District Nurses attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution. These two Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Arrangements are now in force whereby a

Nurse can be provided by the West Riding County Council for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home, in the event of there being no hospital accommodation for such cases.

The Institution receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity Service It has no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The two District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

The Local Authority makes no subsidy towards practising midwives.

There was no change in this service during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by your Council free of charge to any medical practitioner requiring it.

The investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital free of charge. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by an ambulance jointly owned by the Hepton Rural Council and Hebden Royd Urban Council. Subscribers to the Hebden Bridge and District Nursing Institution are entitled to free use of the Ambulance —there is a nominal charge made for non-subscribers. The present Gift Ambulance is in my opinion, no longer suitable for the work in this area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in Hebden Bridge. A Clinic for mothers and babies is held twice weekly, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor and two Nurses The attendances at this Clinic have increased considerably in recent years.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is being well attended. It is under the supervision of a Lady Doctor, and is held on the first, second and fourth Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

V.V.R. Treatment Clinics are held twice weekly, Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at this Centre, and are attended by the Health Nurse and Doctor.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby pre-school and school children can be immunised free of charge either at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.

The "Welcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T. is used for inoculation, and two injections are given at monthly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge. The distance to either of these dispensaries is about four miles from most parts of this area.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Other free treatment Clinics being at Burnley and Keighley.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

There was no change during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 1945 the district was free from any serious epidemics of disease, nor was there much incidence of notifiable disease, but there was a marked prevalence of minor sickness, with prolonged convalesence showing a general lowering of recuperative powers. Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year; these cases were of a sparodic type occurring as single incidents throughout the year.

There were two cases of diphtheria notified during the year. The first case occurred in February, in an adult who had not previously been immunised. No other member of the family contracted the disease. The second case notified occurred in November, and was a scholar attending a school in the neighbouring Urban District. Nasal and throat swabs were taken of all the contacts and all the children attending the school. One carrier was discovered and removed to hospital for treatment. No further cases were notified. Both the case notified and the carrier had previously been fully immunised against diphtheria. The

diphtheritic infection was of a virulent type. The campaign against diphtheria was carried on throughout the year by means of picture shows in Hebden Bridge, Press advertisements, and visits to the homes by the Welfare Visitor, who reminds parents of the vital necessity of having their children immunised against diphtheria. Also each child on its first birthday receives a birthday card stressing the importance of immunisation. These cards are sent at the expense of the Local Authority. Measles were prevalent in this district during January and February, when 18 cases were notified. Whooping Cough was prevalent in June and July, when 20 cases were notified. I am still of the opinion regarding the Fevers, Measles and Whooping Cough, that the number of cases notified does not at all cover the number of cases occurring. Many parents still do not realise that it is their legal duty to call in the family doctor in any suspected case now that these diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your area. This failure on the part of parents makes it impossible to check or control epidemics, or make any accurate survey of these diseases. There was some prevalence of Chicken Pox and Mumps during November and December. Scabies still proved troublesome during the year, recurring in a few cases. Cases notified to the Public Health Department were treated free of charge at the Todmorden Clinic and at the Halifax General Hospital Treatment Centre Out-Patients' Department.

Under the auspices of the Central Council for Health Education photographic displays and cinema shows covering V.D., diphtheria and scabies were given on the 6th November at Hebden Bridge. Further propaganda against V.D. was carried on during the year by the distribution of leaflets and posters. On November 5th Mr. Vincent, from the Central Council, gave a lecture on "Personal Hygiene and Sex Education for Children" at Hebden Bridge. This lecture proved very successful.

There were no cases of Anthrax, Psittacosis, or Undulant Fever.

I do not know of any use of the Shick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever having been made. In my opinion every child immunised against Diphtheria should be Shick tested. No local action was taken in regard to the use of Measles Serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1945.

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	4	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	1	1
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Whooping Cough	20	0	0
Measles	19	0	0
Ophthalmia Nœnatorum	0	0	0

Disease.	Age Periods.										
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 or over
Scarlet Fever		1		3							
Diphtheria				1				1			
Enteric Fever											
Pneumonia			1		1	1			1		
Erysipelas										1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia											
Smallpox											
Measles		10	9								
Whooping Cough		10	6	4							

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.—No action taken.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
15	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..
25	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
35	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
55	1	...	..	..	..	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	1	...	..	...
Totals ...	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

There was ' death from Tuberculosis during the year, and this case had been notified previously to me.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172

No action has been found necessary to be taken under this Section during 1945.

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1945.

NAME OF DISTRICT—HEPTON RURAL

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Cases removed to Hospital.
0	Smallpox	0 Smallpox
4	Scarlet Fever	4 Scarlet Fever.
2	Diphtheria, including Mem. Group	2 Diphtheria
0	Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding para-typhoid)	0 Enteric Fever
0	Paratyphoid	1 Pneumonia
4	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	
0	Puerperal Pyrexia	
0	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
0	Acute Poliomyelitis	
0	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	
0	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	
0	Dysentery	
0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
2	Erysipelas	
4	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only)	
0	Other forms of Tuberculosis (new cases only)	
	Malaria	
0	Contracted in this Country	
0	Contracted Abroad	
0	Induced in Institutions†	
x	Chickenpox	
19	Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella)	
20	Whooping Cough	

Chickenpox.—Was this disease compulsorily notifiable in your district during the year 1945?—No.
If so, please state period ..... If it was not compulsorily notifiable, but was known to be prevalent during 1945, please write a "x" in the appropriate column of the above table.

Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.—Under these heading include only the numbers of primary cases; notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

(Signed) F. J. DOWDALL, Medical Officer of Health.

EVACUATION

The year commenced with 282 evacuees in the district, and of this number very many returned to London in the early months of the year. Indeed, at the end of June there were only 37 remaining in the district, and by the end of December only fourteen. These fourteen had no homes in London to which they could return.

The bulk of the evacuation work during the year consisted of winding up the evacuation scheme. Practically all the requisitioned cottages were released, and in fact at the year end we were only holding five houses, and of these one was in the ownership of the Council. A great deal of work was entailed in collecting and cataloguing the evacuation equipment which had been out on loan during the war years. Some of this had to be destroyed, but the bulk of it was put into store ready to return to the Ministry of Health or to dispose of locally, whichever should be required by the Ministry. All bedding and linen was of course laundered before putting into store, and many of the mattresses were cleaned and re-made.

As there was no possibility of Slater Ing being further required, this was de-requisitioned, and the whole of the equipment which had been in use at the hostel was sold by public auction, realising the satisfactory sum of £373 19s. 2d.

Burnside continued to be used until December as a regional sick bay, but after conversations with the Ministry of Health it was closed as from the 31st December. No children were actually accommodated in the sick bay during December, and the whole of the month was occupied in clearing and packing all the equipment and making a complete inventory of all materials held in Burnside.

As this will probably be the last occasion on which it will be necessary to refer to evacuation matters in my report, I cannot close without paying a tribute to the work of the Women's Voluntary Services. The help they have given willing and cheerfully during the whole period has been incalculable. Without their aid it would have been impossible to carry out the evacuation scheme, and to them we owe a very deep debt of gratitude. We are anxious that they should realise how much ther work has been appreciated and how valuable to the success of the scheme has been their assistance.

In conclusion I would like to thank Mr. Bradley, who acted as Chief Billeting Officer for several years. Miss Heron, who was Welfare Officer, and Miss Sutcliffe, who was matron of Burnside Sick Bay, for their assistance and kindly attention to the requirements of the evacuees both adults and children.

The improvement in the general health and physique of the children who were billeted is in itself sufficient testimony to the care which was bestowed upon them by the foster parents.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS JOSEPH DOWDALL,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,
Medical Officer of Health

HEPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1945

Health Department,
District Bank Chambers,
Hebden Bridge.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton
Rural District Council

Sir and Members,

I beg to submit the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector to the Hepton Rural District for the year 1945.

The report is rather brief owing to the fact that I have only recently resumed my appointment on demobilisation from the Army, and I am only just becoming acquainted again with the work of the department, which as you are aware, has been until recently under the supervision of Mr. H. Wilkinson.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
W. SMITH, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supplies.

The only parts of the district provided with the Council's water supply are the village of Heptonstall, the Edge Hey Green and Colden District and certain houses in Wadsworth, Heptonstall and Erringden, which fringe on the Hebden Royd area and are supplied by that authority.

In all, some 600 houses are supplied with water from the public mains direct to the houses, no houses being supplied by means of stand pipes.

The Heptonstall water is purchased in bulk from the Halifax Corporation, and is pumped from their filter ho se at Hollin Hall, Wadsworth, to the Council's Service Reservoir at Cross Hill, Heptonstall.

The consumption of water since the installation of the supply has been as follows:—

1933-4	...	1,939,000	gallons
1934-5	...	2,432,000	,,
1935-6	...	2,326,000	,,
1936-7	...	2,828,000	,,
1937-8	...	2,326,000	,,
1938-9	...	2,445,000	,,
1939-40	...	3,656,000	,,
1940-1	...	4,601,000	,,
1941-2	...	4,450,000	,,
1942-3	...	4,897,000	,,
1943-4	...	4,921,000	,,
1944-5	..	4,950,000	..

Colden Supply

This supply is obtained from a well at Edge Hey Green and pumped into a small storage tank. This supply is not fully adequate and will not support the number of houses connected to it when they are converted to the water carriage system of sewage disposal. The pressure to some of the houses is very low, due mostly to the corrosion of the service pipes

Wadsworth

Apart from a few houses supplied from the neighbouring Hebden Royd authority there are no publicly owned water supplies in this Parish.

The Council have approved a large housing scheme in this parish, and the provision of a piped water supply is in their programme for 1947.

Charlestown

Some of the existing piped supplies in the Charlestown area are badly sewage polluted. The district is within the statutory limits of supply of the Todmorden Corporation, and negotiations have been in progress during the year for the Council to purchase water in bulk from that authority and distribute it themselves. This scheme is one of the utmost urgency.

Number of water samples taken for—

Bacteriological examinations	3
Number satisfactory	3
Number unsatisfactory	0

Public Cleansing

The work of public cleansing, refuse disposal, and salvage collecting was carried out during the year at a cost of £1,146. Although the district is not under a direction from the Ministry of Supply to collect salvage, the following items were collected and sold during the year:—

Heavy Iron, 3 tons 2 cwts.; Newsprint, 2 tons 10 cwts. 3 qtrs. 2 lbs.; Mixed Paper, 18 tons 13 cwts. 3 qtrs. 16 lbs.; Rage, 5 cwts.; Flocks, 5 tons 13 cwts. 2 qtrs.; Metals, 1 ton 16 cwts. 2 qtrs. Total, 32 tons, 1 cwt. 2 qtrs. 18 lbs.

The scheme inaugurated by the Council whereby owners may purchase direct from the Council dust-bins for the sum of 12/6d., has now been in operation for twelve months. Although the scheme has met with moderate success, it is to be hoped that more people in the district will take advantage of it in the future.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year a Joint Sewage Board has been set up between the Council and Hebden Royd, to deal with the effluent from the combined districts. When this scheme comes into operation the Council's existing sewage works at Kingdom Fields will be taken over by the Joint Board, and it is hoped that eventually they will be closed down and all effluent treated at the Redacre Sewage Works.

Housing.

There has been no change in the housing position since last year, but lay-out and detail plans for the West Laithe Site have been approved by the Council, and it is hoped that a start will be made on the actual building in the near future.

Little further progress has been made with the Rural Housing Survey owing to lack of staff. It is hoped that when Mr. W. Smith returns to the service of the Council on demobilisation from the Services that the staff position will be improved.

Town Planning.

During the year a survey has been made of the woodlands within the district in preparation for an Interim Preservation Order for the Protection of Trees and Woodlands. Confirmation by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning is awaited.

FOOD INSPECTION

Milk Supply

There are 115 registered producers of milk in the district. Of this number 30 are only registered for the production of butter and cheese, and this activity is at present suspended. Six producers hold "Tuberculin Tested" licences and 15 "Accredited." No licences for designated milks have been granted during the year.

	Methylene Blue Test			Coliform Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.		Sat.	Unsat.
Accredited Milk	26	1	...	0	0
Tuberculin Tested	12	0	...	0	0
School Milk	3	0	...	0	0
Other Milk	0	0	...	0	0

The conditions under which milk is produced in the area is showing a marked improvement, and it is hoped to achieve 100 per cent. "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" producers in the next few years.

National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme

In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and with the Department of Agriculture at Leeds University the sampling of Producer-Retailers has been carried on with the following results:—

Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Total
304	20	13	337

Meat Inspection

The Slaughter Houses in the district are still closed down, and all killing is done at Halifax.

British Restaurant

The British Restaurant at Heptonstall was closed down in August of this year.